

Honorable John J. Sparkman

The Center will also serve the Nation's crime laboratory community for periodic seminars and symposia to further develop the forensic sciences.

Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support of FBI programs and the excellent contributions made by the fine law enforcement community of Alabama toward making this research and training facility a reality. Should you need additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

C M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

Enclosure

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

January 5, 1978

Honorable John J. Sparkman
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

AL.
DC.

Attention: Mr. Ellis C. Stewart
Executive Secretary

Dear Senator Sparkman:

Research and Development

Thank you for your inquiry of December 21st regarding the letter you received from Birmingham Chief of Police, James C. Parsons and [redacted] concerning the Forensic Science Research and Training Center at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Your enclosure is being returned as you requested.

As Mr. Parsons indicated in his letter, there is a high priority need for an ongoing and viable forensic training and research program. The new \$3.5 million center will house training and research laboratories dedicated to a wide variety of forensic science disciplines.

I am pleased to report the progress being made on this important facility. President Carter approved construction of the center on August 2, 1977, when he signed Public Law 95 - 86. The FBI and the General Services Administration entered into a memorandum of understanding this month for design-construction services and selection of the architect and engineering firm is now in progress. Actual construction should begin in early 1979. The planned completion date is September, 1980.

As you know, this facility is an essential part of the FBI's program of direct continuing support to state and local law enforcement agencies. When completed, the Center will accommodate approximately 60 forensic laboratory students at any one time and make it possible to train approximately 600 state and local crime laboratory personnel annually. These law enforcement personnel will receive instruction in theory as well as training in the practical aspects of scientific examination of physical support of the criminal justice system.

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Laboratory

FBI/DOJ

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ENCLOSURE